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REMARKS

Claims 1-54 were previously pending in the application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-54 are subject to restriction/election requirement. Applicants have withdrawn claims 41-54. Accordingly, claims 1-40 are now pending in the application. No new matter has been added to the application.

ELECTION

The Examiner states that claims of Group I (i.e., Claims 1-40) and claims of Group II (i.e., Claims 41-54) are drawn to distinct inventions and has required election of one of Group I and Group II for further prosecution. Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-40), without traverse. As such, claims 41-54 are withdrawn. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the claims of Group II in a divisional patent application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending Claims of the captioned Application satisfy all requirements for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore respectfully requested.

Accompanying this response is a Petition for Extension of Time containing a provision for payment of the fee extending the period for response by one month, to and including, November 24, 2004. No fee is believed due beyond the extension fee filed concurrently herewith. However, if it is determined that additional fees are due, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

If the Examiner determines that prosecution of the instant application would benefit from a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (650)-843-5289.

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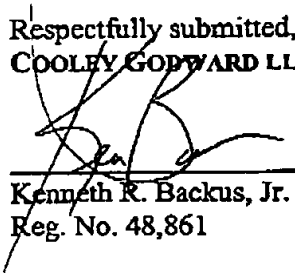
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to either Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

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